UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

2014.2015
SEASON OF EVENTS

CHOIRS IN CONCERT

CONTEMPORARY SHOWCASE

University of Toronto MacMillan Singers
University of Toronto Men's Chorus

Sunday, February 8, 2015
3:00 p.m. Grace Church on-the-Hill
300 Lonsdale Road, Toronto

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Sunday, February 8, 2015
3:00 pm. Grace Church on-the-Hill

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESENTS

CONTEMPORARY SHOWCASE

Men's Chorus
André-Louis Heywood, Conductor
Mark Ramsay, Collaborative Pianist and Assistant Conductor
Brad Barnham, Conducting Assistant

Antiphon (1911) — **Ralph Vaughan Williams** (1872-1958)
(No. 5 from "Five Mystical Songs") (poetry by George Herbert)

Chris Dawes, organ

Seigneur, je vous en prie (1948) — **Francis Poulenc** (1899-1963)
(No. 3 from "Quatre petites prières de Saint François d'Assise")

Mark Ramsay, conductor

Reconciliation (1999) — **Stephen Chatman** (b.1950)
(poetry by Walt Whitman)

Marcus Venables, flugelhorn

Five Ways to Kill a Man (2008) — **Bob Chilcott** (b.1955)
(poetry by Edwin Brock)

Carol Wang, percussion

When I Hear Her, I Have Wings (2006) — **Mark Templeton** (b.1974)
(poetry by Mary Coleridge)

Brad Barnham, conductor

Ramkali (2006) — **arr. Ethan Sperry** (b.1971)

Matthew Boutda & Alex Sandoval, soloists

This performance is given in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the degree Doctor of Music in Conducting for André-Louis Heywood

MacMillan Singers
Hilary Apfelstadt, Conductor
Elaine Choi, Assistant Conductor
Chris Dawes, Collaborative Pianist

This program features works by Canadian composers, most of whom are young, emerging writers, and includes the premiéres of two winning compositions by student composers from the University of Toronto in the MacMillan Singers Composition Competition 2014.*

Songs of Remembrance (2014) — **Stephen Chatman** (b.1950)
(poetry by Christina Rossetti)
Come to me
And if thou wilt, remember

Matt Cairns and Emma Bergin, soloists
Katie Steadman, Clarinet

Universal Brotherhood (2011)+ — **Parisa Sabet*** (b.1980)
(Baha'u'llah's writings)
For love of me - Dan Ryan, speaker
Reunion with me
The Unity's Light

+Premiere performance

The First Spring Day (2013)+ — **Sarah Jaysmith** (b.1974)
(poetry by Christina Rossetti)

Recommended Work and Conductor Prize in the C7 Prize 2014

+Premiere performance

The Lover's Chant (2014) — **Matthew Emery** (b.1991)
(poetry by James Joyce)

When you are old (2010) — **Patrick Murray** (b.1990)
(poetry by William Butler Yeats)

Brad Barnham, Michael Johnston, and James Renwick, tenor soloists
Elaine Choi, conductor

She Walks in Beauty (2014)+ — **Matt Gaskin*** (b.1978)
(poetry by George Gordon Byron)

+Premiere performance

In Paradisum (2008) — **Kathleen Allan** (b.1989)
(text by the composer; and from the Latin liturgy)

Yujene Oh, soloist

Gloria (2010) — **Tim Corlis** (b.1972)
(from Missa Pax)

Chelsea Duchemin-Pringle, soloist

Program Notes for Men's Chorus

TWO SONGS OF FAITH

English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote *Five Mystical Songs* between 1906 and 1911, for solo baritone with several options for accompanying forces – choosing among piano, organ, mixed chorus, and men's chorus. Vaughan Williams' atheism did not seem to be a hurdle in setting this overtly religious text from four poems by 17th-century Anglican priest George Herbert (1593-1633). While the first four texts are meditative in nature, the fifth song, ***Antiphon***, is a triumphant hymn of praise. - *André-Louis Heywood*

At the request of his great nephew, French composer Francis Poulenc set four texts by St. Francis of Assisi for men's chorus in 1948. ***Seigneur, je vous en prie*** (*Lord, I Beseech Thee*), the third in the set, displays Poulenc's characteristic rich harmonic language and references St. Francis' desire to focus on his faith as an expression of love and devotion. - *Mark Ramsay*

Lord, I beseech Thee,
Let the burning and gentle force of Thy love pervade my soul
and withdraw it from all that is beneath Heaven,
that I might die through love of Thy love,
since Thou didst deign to die through love of my love.

TWO SONGS OF WAR AND PEACE

Walt Whitman's (1819-1892) ***Reconciliation*** appears in his collection of Civil War poems, *Drum Taps*. Whitman spent much time during the American Civil War volunteering in hospitals. He believed that the nation's foremost priority after the war was reconciliation between the two sides. In this short poem, he counters the fallacy that our enemies in war represent an evil force, shedding light on the uncomfortable truth that our enemies are much like us. In this haunting setting, British Columbia composer Stephen Chatman uses flugelhorn to underscore the significance of the text. - *ALH*

Five Ways to Kill A Man is one of Edwin Brock's (1927-1997) most famous and heavily anthologized poems. This challenging satirical text on the futility of war sheds light on humanity's gruesome preoccupation with killing each other, despite our own inevitable natural mortality. British composer and former King's Singer Bob Chilcott wrote this piece jointly for Chor Leoni (Canada) and Orphei Dranger (Sweden) – two of the finest men's choirs in the world. - *ALH*

TWO SONGS OF LOVE

When I Hear Her, I Have Wings by Mark D. Templeton sets the poem *Gibberish* by Mary Elizabeth Coleridge (1861-1907). Templeton was the Artistic Director, composer and arranger of West Virginia's professional men's chorus Cantabile for many years, which provided him the musical and academic landscape to advance his knowledge in men's chorus composition, resulting in this stunning piece commissioned by the Ohio State University Men's Glee Club. Templeton explores the full range of the male voice in this work, including a remarkable high note at the climax, sung by all parts, and sets the text effortlessly and evocatively. - *Brad Barnham*

Ramkali is one of 400 ragas (musical scales) in the classical Indian tradition and is considered one of the most complex. This arrangement by American composer/arranger Ethan Sperry is divided into four sections. The opening *allap* features solo voices accompanied by a drone and overtone singing – reminiscent of traditional instruments. The melodic *tintal* section uses a quasi-religious text historically associated with the raga. This section is flanked by two solkattu sections – a kind of rhythmic solfège used to teach rhythmic patterns, much like our Western tradition used to teach pitches. - *ALH*

I am entirely devoted to you, my lord.
At least heed my plea, my love.
I hope to be united with you, my love.
Peace of mind is not mine, my love.

Program Notes for MacMillan Singers

Composer Stephen Chatman has been on the faculty of the University of British Columbia since 1976. His works have been performed internationally and he is winner of numerous awards. A prolific composer for choir, he writes in an accessible, expressive style that is essentially tonal, and selects poetry that in inherently expressive. ***Songs of Remembrance*** uses two poems by Christina Rossetti, "Echo" (which is abridged by the composer) and "Song," used in its entirety. The (optional) addition of the clarinet, with its distinctive warm timbre, adds to the intensity of the compositions, as do the flowing

piano accompaniments.

Composer Parisa Sabet writes the following: "***Universal Brotherhood*** is inspired by my visits to the Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, IL in 2011. The temple was initially designed by a Canadian Architect, Louis Bourgeois, and completed in 1953. It has nine sides, and nine external towers. The Temple is surrounded by beautiful gardens and walkways. The tracery of the towers are intertwined with symbols of many world religions representing unity. The main auditorium features walls of lace-like ornamentation and a dome rising 135 feet above the main floor. There is a gallery where choirs or a soloist may perform, however, no musical instruments are used during the services in the auditorium.

There are eighteen quotations written by Baha'u'llah (the founder of Baha'i faith) integrated into the entrances and alcoves of the auditorium. When I visited the temple, I was deeply moved by the beauty of the architecture and the serene atmosphere of the space. As I sat with my eyes closed, I imagined myself sitting in the crowd and the words of Baha'u'llah were pouring over my head. After my visit, I chose nine of these quotations and set them to music in three movements (For Love of Me, Reunion With Me, and Unity's Light)." http://www.bahai.us/bahai-temple - *Composer's note*

Sarah Jaysmith received her Bachelor of Music Education at Trinity College, Dublin studying with Dr. Joseph Groocock. She currently lives and works in Vancouver as a composer, arranger and a vocal coach. ***The First Spring Day*** is a setting of a wonderful poem by Christina Rossetti, which explores the meanings of "spring," both within the world and also within the soul. "I have always loved Christina Rossetti. Spring for me is a time when anything is possible, good or bad, and I think those mixed feelings are captured very well in the poem, but I love the fact that it ends optimistically. And it seemed perfect to set the music because it already has the repeated calls to sing. I think it's a very expressive poem, and I hope that I have captured that in the setting." (Composer's note.)

The First Spring Day received Honourable Mention in the 35th Novi Cantori Call for Scores, and selected as a Recommended Work and winner of a Conductor Prize in the C7 Prize 2014. Today's marks the premiere performance of this piece.

Matthew Emery is a gifted young composer from London, Ontario, who received his undergraduate degree in composition from the University of British Columbia, where he studied with Stephen Chatman. His work is lyrical and expressive, wedding text and music in a sensitive manner. He is the winner of numerous prizes and boasts an impressive publication record, having works published by several leading publishing houses. For ***The Lover's Chant***, Matthew received the 2014 Diane Loomer Award, given by Choral Canada for the best work submitted to the Competition for Choral Writing. The National Youth Choir of Canada, conducted by Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt, premiered the piece in May 2014. *The Lover's Chant* is published by Cypress Choral Music and is sure to gain widespread notice for its challenging, yet accessible, musical language.

Composer Patrick Murray is an alumnus of the MacMillan Singers. Graduating in 2011 from the University of Toronto with a degree in composition, Patrick is currently enrolled in the Master of Music program in choral conducting at the Yale School of Music.

"***When You are Old*** is a labour of love, both as a poem and a piece of music. I wrote the opening motive during Christmas 2007 and set it aside, finishing the work after several attempts during the winter of 2010. The performers, too, should evoke this time spent lingering over the words through their rubato. Important words, as marked by tenutos, fermatas, and dynamics, must be loved as the speaker of the poem loved. Indeed, think of a loved one, and sing to them. " - *Composer's note*

Composer Matt Gaskin is a second-time winner in the MacMillan Singers' Choral Composition Competition, having had a work premiered by the group in 2014. He is a member of the Elmer Iseler Singers and the Amadeus Choir, and tenor section lead at Fairlawn Avenue United Church.

"***She Walks In Beauty*** is a partial setting of Byron's famous poem. It aims to combine a contemporary choral sound with lush Romantic era harmonies to create a sonic world that, like the poem, is both "dark and bright". The poet's obsession with his subject is rendered in gradually building melodies, unravelling as the piece moves through key centres at an increasing rate, building to a climax as he revels in his infatuation. " - *Composer's note*

A native of St. John's, Newfoundland, Kathleen Allan received her Bachelor of Music degree in composition from the University of British Columbia, and a Master of Music degree in conducting from the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music.

"***In paradisum*** (English: "Into paradise") is an antiphon from the traditional Latin liturgy of the Western Church Requiem mass. It is sung by the choir as the body is being taken out of the church. The text of *In paradisum* – with or without the Gregorian melody itself – is sometimes included in musical settings of the Requiem Mass, such as those by Gabriel Fauré and Maurice Duruflé. (Notes from the score.)

This particular setting by Allan was written in 2008, dedicated to her grandfather, and combines original English text by the composer coupled with the Latin text.

Canadian composer Timothy Corlis has a degree in social and political thought as well as an M.Mus in composition. Through his work, he strives to create a sense of communal activity. He believes that music has a strong power for social change. Corlis was nominated for a Juno award in 1999. ***Gloria*** is a movement from Corlis' larger work, *Missa Pax*.

"The *Gloria* felt like the heart of the work – a wonderful tapestry of colours and textures. At one point, it was scattered vocal staccatos, jostling around a tonal centre; and another, it was a wonderfully-sustained alto, supporting undulating soprano. The progression from the simmering laudamus te up to a super-charged fortissimo gloria in excelsis deo was a fantastically-cathartic moment of celebration, featuring stratospheric Sopranos, unflinchingly launching heavenward." (Steven Preece, reviewing *Missa Pax*, Elora Festival Singers, Kitchener-Waterloo Record, July 17, 2009, cited on the score.)

Notes compiled by Elaine Choi and Hilary Apfelstadt

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Alex Altshuler
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Gian Carlo Candinario
Wing-Kee Chan
Joohyung Chang
Victor Cheng
Kenneth Cheong
Kevin Cheung
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David Miller
Artun Miskciyan
Graydon Mulholland
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Alex Nikolic
Artem Ninichuk
Seung Woo Noh
Adam Parker
Samuel Poole
James Profiti
Matti Pulkki
Travis Quirk
Jared Ross
James Sandau
Alex Sandoval
Matthew Snowdon
Benedict Su
Chestan Tam
Manoosh Tavakoli-Malayeri
Korin Thomas-Smith
Bradley Warburton
Matthew Waterman
Liam West
Xi Wu
Joshua Yeo
Kangzhi Zhao

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Jacob Abrahamse
Andrew Adridge
Michael Bridge
Bradley Barnham
Stuart Beaudoin
Emma Bergin
Alexandra Brennan
Matthew Cairns
Eugene Chan
Elaine Choi
Chalie Chuong
Thomas Corken
Joseph Crimi
Nicholas Cunha
Siobhan Donovan
Adrian DeBoer
Liya Dunlap
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The U of T Women's Chorus and MacMillan Singers present a program featuring works primarily from the western European choral canon including a cantata by J.S. Bach; Brahms' motet *O Heiland Reiss*, and Franz Joseph Haydn's *Te Deum* in C**.**

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